

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sugiyama et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,790,745).

In Sugiyama et al., a plurality of moving picture signals are coded into a total data stream, which is called authoring, as defined in the preamble of claim 1. Temporal coding is required to know the amount of target codes in one prescribed period. The moving picture signals are coded (real coding) while the amount of codes is controlled according to the amount of target codes.

In claims 1 to 4, a first bitstream obtained by efficient coding of a moving-picture video signal is converted into a second bitstream by re-coding, for example, from HDD 30 to DVD 60, as disclosed in page 8, line 26 to page 9, line 27. This is not authoring. Temporal coding is not required. Information on code amount or quantization is extracted from the first bitstream, as a parameter indicating moving-picture coding difficulty. The amount of quasi-generated codes is obtained from the parameter and adjusted to obtain the amount of target codes for a given portion of the moving-picture video signal. The first bitstream is then coded into the second bitstream according to the amount of target codes.

In summary, Sugiyama et al. require temporal coding whereas claims 1 to 4 do not require such temporal coding, or the former performs two steps of coding (temporal coding and real coding) whereas the latter performs coding only once.

Moreover, the Examiner alleges that Sugiyama et al. teach the extraction of information on code amount or quantization extracted from the first bitstream, as a parameter indicating moving-picture coding difficulty. However, Sugiyama et al. do not extract such information. The temporary code amount counter 16 counts the code amount, according to column 12, line 63 to column 13, line 3.

The Examiner further alleges that Sugiyama et al. teach that the amount of quasi-generated codes is obtained from a parameter. However, column 13, lines 5 to 9 teaches that a target transfer rate is set from the temporary code amount.

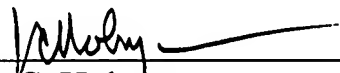
As discussed above, claims 1 to 4 are different from Sugiyama et al., under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: October 12, 2007
JCH/JLS/crj